AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) For a wireless system including base station transceivers to communicate with at least one mobile station, the base station transceivers communication with a network controller, a method comprising the steps of:

determining whether to convey information received from a mobile station in a backhaul frame based on a decoding metric:

in response to determining to not convey the information in the frame, controlling, in a base station transceiver, a header for a packet frame to be communicated between the base station transceiver and the network controller wherein a portion of the header identifies the frame as one containing no data package; and

transmitting the frame to the network controller with the constructed header and without the data package.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein data bits of a header field contain a predetermined bit pattern for a frame including no data package.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the information received by the base station from the mobile station areis dropped, and the header information is replaced with the specified bit pattern, if a decoding metric passes a threshold.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the information received by the base station from the mobile station areis dropped and the header information is replaced with the specified bit pattern if a CRC for the frame received from the mobile station fails.

5. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the decoding metric comprises at least one of a finger lock status, a symbol error rate, a bit error rate, and signal-to-interference ratio, and a signal-to-noise ratio.

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